

<div>THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING</div>
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VOL. VIII	SEPTEMBER, 1908	NO. 12
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EDITORIAL COMMENT



THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS

WHILE it is not possible for us to give before the congress the complete program for the nursing session, we know that the following group of women are to present papers: Mrs. R. Burgess, of the Gaylord Farm Sanatorium in Connecticut, will write on "Sanatorium Atmosphere,—Moral and Cheerful"; Miss Frances Hostetter, of the Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia, and Miss Ida Cannon, of Boston, "The Tuberculosis Class"; Miss Louie Croft Boyd, of Denver, "The National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives"; Miss Eliza Thayer Patterson, of the Vanderbilt Clinic, New York, "Disinfection in Tenement Houses"; Miss M. E. Lent, Baltimore, "The True Function of the Tuberculosis Nurse"; Miss LaMotte, of Baltimore, "The Unteachable Consumptive"; Miss Florence R. Smithwick, of Denver, "The Attitude of the Modern District Nurse to Tuberculosis"; Miss Mabel Jacques, of Philadelphia, "Home Occupations in Families of Consumptives and Possible Dangers to the Public"; Miss Bertha L. Stark, of Pittsburgh, "Anti-Tuberculosis Work in the Pittsburgh Public Schools"; Miss Anne K. Sutton, superintendent of Phipps Institute, "The Henry Phipps Institute Training School for Nurses"; Mrs. M. E. Hoffman, a Phipps nurse, "The Instruction of the Patient in Personal Hygiene"; Mrs. Van Wagner, "Opportunities in Tenement House Inspection for Teaching in Tuberculous Families."

We have been informed that papers in the general sessions of the congress will be read by Mrs. Robb, Miss Damer, Miss Fulmer and Miss Wald.

There has never been an occasion in any great national movement when nurses have been granted the recognition that is being given in

connection with this congress. This is largely due to the efforts of Dr. John S. Fulton, secretary-general of the congress, who is most generous in his attitude toward nurses, idealizing them and even crediting them with more than they do, and who placed Miss Nutting on the central committee; to Miss Nutting herself, who was determined that nurses should have a distinguished place; and to Mr. Devine, who made the plan for the special session.

We have every assurance that there will be an interesting gathering of women engaged in this work, and in the matter of papers and discussions and interchange of experiences and helpful suggestions there is no question but that the nursing session will be a success.

The opportunity for hearing in the general sessions of the congress distinguished speakers from all parts of the world, is one that may not occur again in years and is worth some personal sacrifice for a nurse to bring about.

In order to prepare a valuable exhibit of the nurse's own share in the anti-tuberculosis movement, it is necessary that Miss Nutting and Miss Strong should have at least a thousand dollars. Dr. Fulton has sent broadly a circular letter appealing for funds for this special exhibit, but the suggestion has been made that individual nurses and nursing organizations shall be appealed to for aid in making this exhibit a success. Many women who cannot attend the meeting can show their interest by a contribution, be it ever so small. Any nurse or patient who has had in her family circle a victim of tuberculosis should be interested to contribute a dollar to this great educational movement, and the nursing organizations should be interested to aid, if only in sums equally small. While a thousand dollars seems a large amount when considered in bulk, it will not mean much when distributed among the thousands of nurses and their patients who may have reason to be interested in this special feature of the convention. Such contributions should be sent to Miss Isabel Strong, 2001 I Street, Washington, D. C., and applications for accommodations during the convention should be addressed to Mrs. Eustis at the same address. The congress is to be in session from September 28 to October 3, and the nurses' session is to be held on October 1.

Tuberculosis camps have recently been put in operation in Buffalo and in Rochester, N. Y. We know that the nurses' interest in both of these places has added greatly to their success. The camp in Rochester has been organized by a committee from the Public Health Association, with Miss S. F. Palmer as chairman.

In a letter from Miss Nutting, who is spending her vacation in Newfoundland, we hear of a tuberculosis convention which has been

organized there for the purpose of bringing together two hundred and fifty school teachers that they may be instructed in the cause and prevention of tuberculosis and in turn pass on this knowledge to their pupils.

In Detroit, a most vigorous and interesting campaign has been waged in which all the citizens of all classes have been interested coöperators. As a result of one special day's work in June, the funds of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society were raised from ten dollars to ten thousand dollars. This money is placed in the hands of a committee of seven of which Mrs. L. E. Gretter, head of the Visiting Nurse Association, is chairman, and is to be largely used in the sending of visiting nurses among tuberculosis patients. The city is divided into districts for this work and will be thoroughly canvassed. In addition, a vigorous "anti-spit" crusade is being waged.

THE WORK FOR BABIES IN CLEVELAND

THE Babies' Dispensary in Cleveland is the first of its kind in America. Similar work may have been done by others, but none have followed the prophylactic work throughout the entire year as this has done from the start. It sometimes happens, unfortunately, that milk stations and dispensaries, started with the best motives and run with immense enthusiasm, fail to accomplish all the good they might because the workers are not sufficiently informed and instructed as to the best methods. Sometimes, in a large city, several stations under one central head will be operated without sufficient coöperation and will differ greatly in usefulness. Of two stations in similar districts, one will be crowded with applicants and the other will be ministering to very few, because of the difference of method in getting hold of the people for whom the charity was organized.

Before starting the work in Cleveland a thorough investigation was made of the methods employed in similar work, both here and abroad, and everything was thought out ahead as far as possible, down to such small details as having the chairs in the waiting rooms supplied with rods at the back, on which the baby's clothes could be hung when it was undressed for examination. The result of this forethought is that the work has not been experimental and no money has been lost in learning how.

Those who have much to do with public service sometimes grow sick at heart in seeing public or charitable funds wasted through ignorance, or work falling to the ground because of personal friction between those who should be losing all thought of self in the general good.